

(11) Publication number : **0 499 479 A2**

(12)

## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number : **92301224.9**

(51) Int. Cl.<sup>5</sup> : **H04L 7/033**

(22) Date of filing : **14.02.92**

(30) Priority : **15.02.91 JP 22032/91**

(43) Date of publication of application :  
**19.08.92 Bulletin 92/34**

(84) Designated Contracting States :  
**DE FR GB SE**

(71) Applicant : **NEC CORPORATION**  
**7-1, Shiba 5-chome Minato-ku**  
**Tokyo 108-01 (JP)**

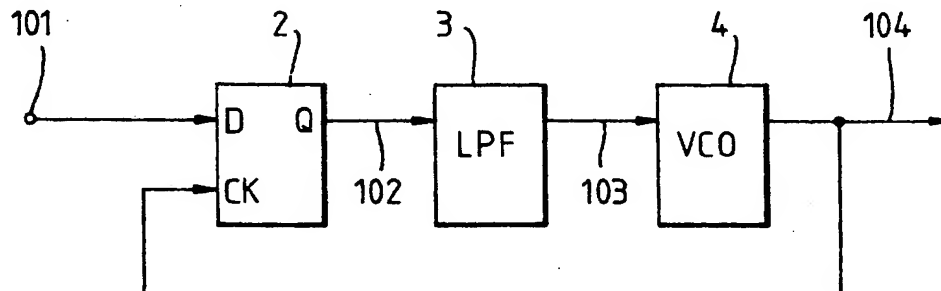
(72) Inventor : **Yoshida, Yasuharu, c/o NEC Corporation**  
**7-1, Shiba 5-chome**  
**Minato-ku, Tokyo (JP)**  
Inventor : **Kuroda, Yuka, c/o NEC Engineering Ltd.**  
**20-4, Nishishinbashi 3-chome**  
**Minato-ku, Tokyo (JP)**  
Inventor : **Fukuda, Seiji, c/o NEC Engineering Ltd.**  
**20-4, Nishishinbashi 3-chome**  
**Minato-ku, Tokyo (JP)**

(74) Representative : **Orchard, Oliver John**  
**JOHN ORCHARD & CO. Staple Inn Buildings**  
**North High Holborn**  
**London WC1V 7PZ (GB)**

(54) **Clock regeneration circuit.**

(57) A clock regeneration circuit for extracting timing information from a CMI (Coded Mark Inversion) coded signal. The output (204) of a voltage controlled oscillator (4) capable of oscillating at the clock frequency of the CMI coded signal is sampled by a flip-flop (2) at timings corresponding to the boundaries of the time slots of a CMI coded signal (201). A low pass filter (3) is connected to the output (202) of the flip-flop 2. The phase of the output (204) of the voltage controlled oscillator (4) is controlled by the output (203) of the low pass filter.

*Fig. 1.*  
PRIOR ART



EP 0 499 479 A2

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a clock regeneration circuit and, more particularly, to a clock regeneration circuit for regenerating a clock signal from a CMI (Coded Mark Inversion) coded binary signal.

A circuit for regenerating a clock signal from a CMI coded binary signal, or simply CMI signal as referred to hereinafter, is disclosed in U. S. Patent 4, 823, 363. The circuit has a D-type flip-flop which receives a CMI signal at a data input terminal and a regenerated clock signal at a clock input terminal, a low pass filter for smoothing the output of the flip-flop, and a voltage controlled oscillator (VCO) for producing a regenerated clock signal with the oscillation frequency thereof controlled in matching relation to the output of the low pass filter. Such a conventional clock regeneration circuit does not need a tank circuit and is, therefore, easy to implement an integrated circuit. In addition, this kind of circuit suffers from a minimum of phase jitter.

However, the problem with the above-described clock regeneration circuit is that it fails to accurately regenerate a clock signal when a "1" signal continuously appears in the original information signal having not undergone CMI coding, since it is difficult to lock the phase of the VCO to that of the CMI signal for reasons which will be described later.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide a clock regeneration circuit capable of regenerating a clock signal stably with no regard to the content of an original information signal.

In accordance with the present invention, a clock regeneration circuit for extracting a regenerated clock signal from a binary CMI signal has oscillating means for generating the regenerating clock signal by having the frequency thereof changed by a control signal, sampling means for sampling the regenerated clock signal by using the CMI signal as a timing signal to thereby produce a sampled signal, and control signal generating means for smoothing the sampled signal to thereby generate the control signal.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description taken with the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram schematically showing a conventional clock regeneration circuit;  
FIG. 2 is a timing chart useful for understanding the operation of the circuit shown in FIG. 1;  
FIG. 3 is a block diagram schematically showing a clock regeneration circuit embodying the pre-

sent invention; and

FIG. 4 is a timing chart demonstrating a specific operation of the embodiment.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

To better understand the present invention, a brief reference will be made to a prior art clock regeneration circuit of the type disclosed in U.S. Patent 4, 823, 363, shown in FIG. 1. A CMI signal is a binary NRZ (Non-Return to Zero) signal formatted such that in which an original signal "0" of symbol rate  $1/T$  and corresponding to "0, 1" having a twice greater bit rate and an original signal "1" corresponding to either "0, 0" or "1, 1" are sent alternately with each other, as well known in the art. FIG. 2 (b) shows an inverted signal of such a CMI signal. In the following description relating to FIGS. 1 and 2 (a) - 2 (c), let the inverted CMI signal be referred to as an input CMI signal. In FIG. 1, the input CMI signal 101 is applied to an input terminal D of a D-type flip-flop (FF) 2 while the oscillation output of a VCO 4 is applied to a timing terminal C of the FF 2.

Assume that the original information signal is "0", as shown in FIG. 2 (a). Then, the input CMI signal has a negative-going edge at the intermediate point  $t_a$  of a time slot T and has no positive-going edges there. The output of the FF 2 is "0" when the phase in which the output 104 of the VCO 4 goes high is advanced than the intermediate point  $t_a$  of the time slot T (sampling point being  $t_1$ ) or is "1" when the former is retarded than the latter (sampling point being  $t_2$ ). In this manner, the FF2 produces an output 102 representative of a phase error between the input CMI signal 101 and the output 104 of the VCO 4. A low pass filter (LPF) 3 removes noise and needless high frequency components from the FF output 102, producing a low frequency signal component 103. The low frequency signal component 103 retards the output 104 of the VCO 4 if the ratio of "0" in the FF output 102 is great or advances it if the ratio of "1" is great, thereby causing "0" and "1" to appear in the same ratio in the FF output 102. On the other hand, when the original data signal is "1", neither a positive-going edge nor a negative-going edge occurs at the intermediate point  $t_a$  of the time slot T. Hence, "1" and "0" appear in the same probability as each other in the output 102 of the FF 2 and, therefore, do not effect the control over the VCO oscillation frequency at all.

At the boundary point  $t_b$  between nearby time slots T, positive- and negative-going edges occur. Therefore, the output 102 of the FF 2 does not have regularity with respect to phase error, i.e., no phase error signal is obtainable. In such a condition, the phase of the output 102 of the VCO 4 is prevented from being locked to the phase  $t_b$  of the input CMI signal 101.

As stated above, the prior art clock regeneration

circuit controls the output 104 of the VCO 4 on the basis of "0" of the original information signal such that the sampling point of the FF 2 coincides with the intermediate point  $t_a$  of the time slot T. As a result, the output 104 of the VCO 4 is locked to the phase of the input CMI signal 101.

However, assume that the original information signal is all "1", i.e., AIS (Alarm Indication Signal) as prescribed by CCITT. Then, since neither a positive-going edge nor a negative-going edge occurs at the intermediate point  $t_a$  of the time slot T, the output of the FF 2 has "1" and "0" in the same ratio with no regard to the phase error, i.e., whether the positive-going edge of the output 104 of the VCO 4 is advanced in phase (sampling point being  $t_1$ ) or retarded in phase (sampling point being  $t_2$ ). More specifically, since the output of the FF 2 does not include any information relating to the phase error relative to the input CMI signal, the phase of the output of the VCO 4 cannot be locked to the phase of the input CMI signal. The conventional timing extracting circuit, therefore, fails to extract a timing, depending on the content of the original information signal.

Referring to FIG. 3, a clock regeneration circuit embodying the present invention is shown. As shown, the clock regeneration circuit has a D-type FF 2 which receives an input CMI signal (non-inverted) 201 at a timing terminal C and receives the output of a VCO 4 at an input terminal D.

As shown in FIG. 4, when the original signal is "0", the input CMI signal 201 goes high, i.e., a positive-going edge occurs only at the boundary point  $t_b$  of a time slot T without exception. When the positive-going edge of the output 204 of the VCO 4 occurs in a phase advanced than the boundary point  $t_b$  of the time slot T (sampling point being  $t_2$ ), the output of the FF 2 is "0"; when the former occurs in a phase retarded than the latter (sampling point being  $t_1$ ), the output of the FF 2 is "1". As a result, the FF 2 produces an output 202 representative of a phase error between the CMI signal 201 and the output 204 of the VCO 4. An LPF 3 removes noise and needless high frequency components from the FF output 202, producing a low frequency component 203. The low frequency component 203 retards the output 204 of the VCO 4 if the ratio of "0" in the FF output 202 is great or advances it if the ratio of "1" is great, so that "0" and "1" may appear in the same ratio as each other. That is, the VCO output 204 is so controlled as to cause the sampling point to coincide with the boundary point  $t_b$  of the time slot T, thereby locking the phase of the VCO output 204 to the phase of the input CMI signal 201.

When the original information signal is "1", a positive-going edge occurs in the input CMI signal 201 every two time slots. When the output 204 of the VCO 4 is advanced than the boundary point  $t_b$  of the time slot where a positive-going edge exists, the output of

the FF 2 is "0"; when the former is retarded than the latter, the FF output is "1". Then, the low frequency component 103 controls the VCO output 204 such that "1" and "0" have the same ratio as each other in the FF output 202, i.e., the sampling point coincides with the boundary point  $t_b$  of the time slot T. As a result, the phase of the VCO output 204 is locked to the phase of the input CMI signal 201. Therefore, even when the original information signal is a string of "1", i.e., AIS, timing information can be stably extracted at all times since the FF output 202 contains information representative of a phase error between the input CMI signal 201 and the VCO output 204.

Further, even with AIS or similar original information signal which is not all "1", the present invention is capable of regenerating a clock more accurately than the conventional clock regenerating circuit shown in FIG. 1, for the following reason. Assume an ordinary original information signal wherein "0" and "1" each occurs in the probability of 1/2 by way of example.

The conventional clock generating circuit shown in FIG. 1 can detect information representative of a phase error between the VCO output 104 and the input CMI signal only in the time slots in which the original information signal is "0", as stated previously. With such a circuit, therefore, it is possible to detect phase error information in substantially one half of time time slots.

By contrast, the present invention is capable of detecting phase error information between the VCO output 204 and the input CMI signal not only in the time slots wherein the original information signal is "0" but also in the time slots wherein it is "1" in the probability of 1/2. It follows that the present invention can detect such information in three-fourths of all the time slots.

It will be seen from the above that the present invention can regenerate a clock more accurately than the conventional clock regeneration circuit.

In summary, the present invention provides a clock regeneration circuit capable of extracting timing information stably with no regard to the content of the original information signal of a CMI signal, e.g., even with AIS which is a string of "1". This is because the circuit of the present invention obtains phase error information by sampling the output of a VCO, which can oscillate at a clock frequency, at the boundaries of the time slots of the CMI signal.

Various modifications will become possible for those skilled in the art after receiving the teachings of the present disclosure without departing from the scope thereof.

## Claims

1. A clock regeneration circuit for extracting a regen-

erated clock signal from a CMI coded binary signal, comprising:

oscillating means for generating said regenerated clock signal by having the frequency thereof changed by a control signal;

sampling means for sampling said regenerated clock signal by using said CMI coded signal as a timing signal to thereby produce a sampled signal; and

low pass filtering means for low pass filtering said sampled signal to generate said control signal.

2. A circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sampling means comprises a D-type flip-flop having a timing signal input terminal for receiving an inverted signal of said CMI coded signal, and a data input terminal for receiving said regenerated clock signal.

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

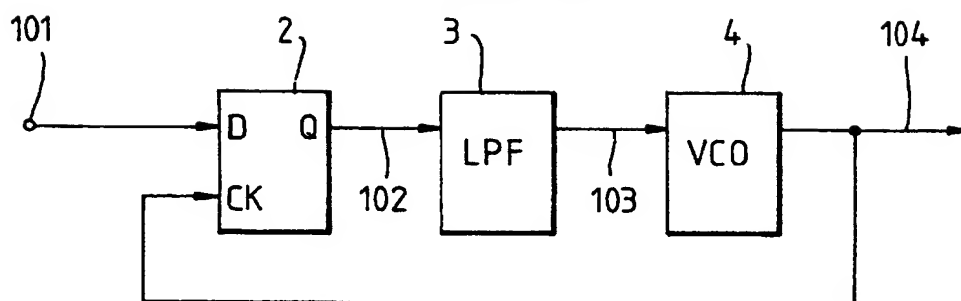
45

50

55

*Fig. 1.*

PRIOR ART



*Fig. 3.*

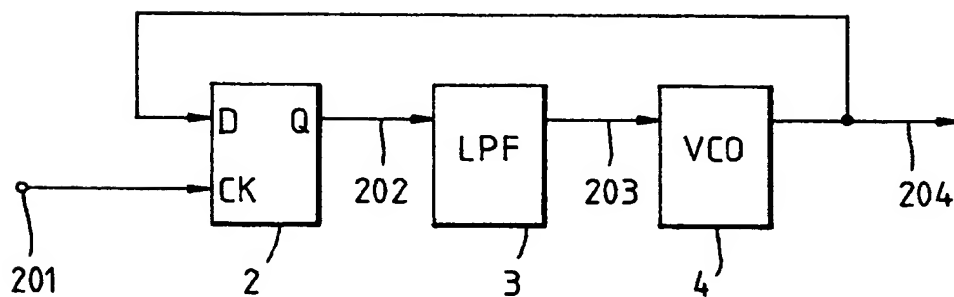


Fig. 2.

PRIOR ART

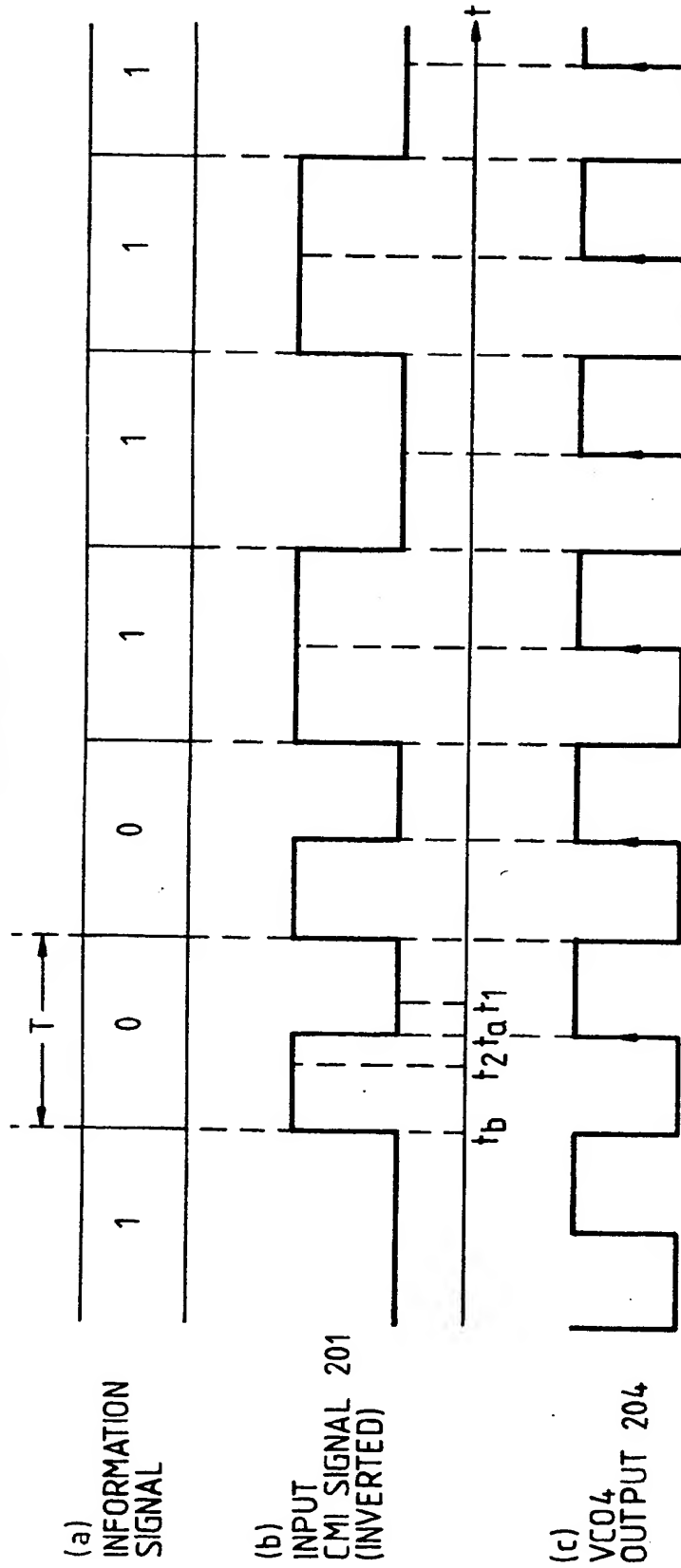
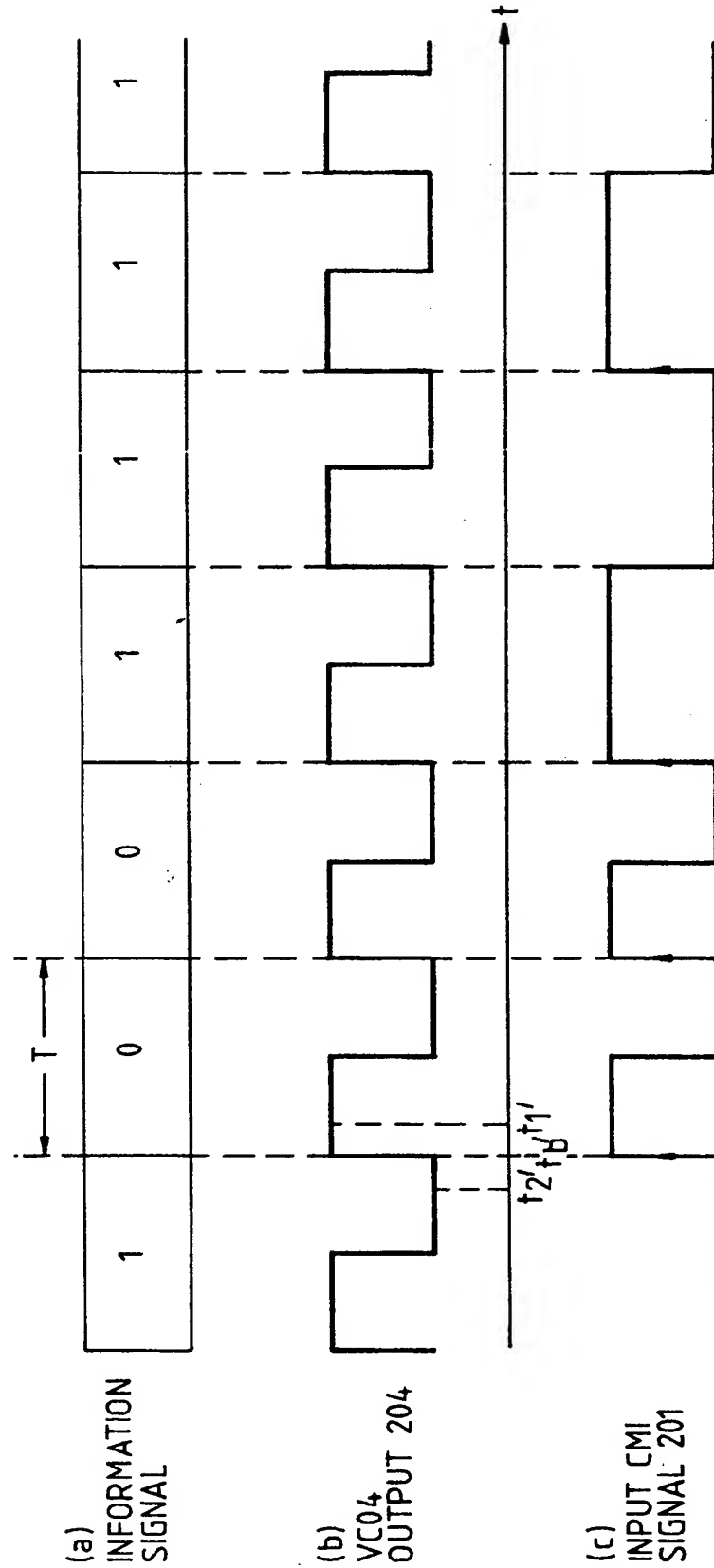


Fig. 4.





Publication number: **0 499 479 A3**

12

# **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

21 Application number: **92301224.9**

51 Int. Cl.<sup>5</sup>: **H04L 7/033, H03L 7/085**

22 Date of filing: **14.02.92**

30 Priority: **15.02.91 JP 22032/91**

43 Date of publication of application:  
**19.08.92 Bulletin 92/34**

84 Designated Contracting States:  
**DE FR GB SE**

88 Date of deferred publication of search report:  
**09.12.92 Bulletin 92/50**

71 Applicant: **NEC CORPORATION**  
**7-1, Shiba 5-chome Minato-ku**  
**Tokyo 108-01 (JP)**

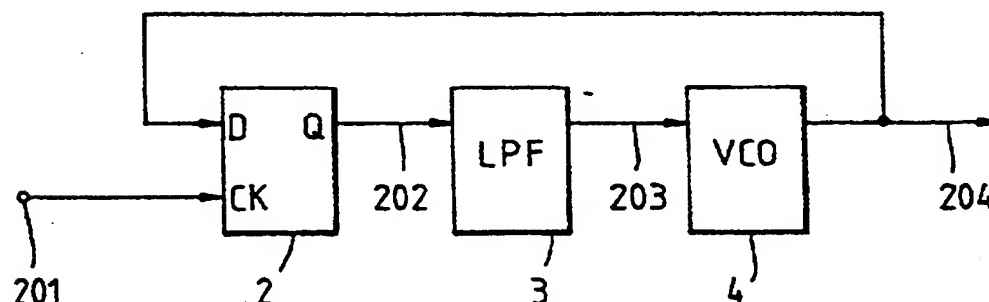
72 Inventor: **Yoshida, Yasuharu, c/o NEC Corporation**  
**7-1, Shiba 5-chome**  
**Minato-ku, Tokyo (JP)**  
Inventor: **Kuroda, Yuka, c/o NEC Engineering Ltd.**  
**20-4, Nishishinbashi 3-chome**  
**Minato-ku, Tokyo (JP)**  
Inventor: **Fukuda, Seiji, c/o NEC Engineering Ltd.**  
**20-4, Nishishinbashi 3-chome**  
**Minato-ku, Tokyo (JP)**

74 Representative: **Orchard, Oliver John**  
**JOHN ORCHARD & CO. Staple Inn Buildings**  
**North High Holborn**  
**London WC1V 7PZ (GB)**

54 Clock regeneration circuit.

57 A clock regeneration circuit for extracting timing information from a CMI (Coded Mark Inversion) coded signal. The output (204) of a voltage controlled oscillator (4) capable of oscillating at the clock frequency of the CMI coded signal is sampled by a flip-flop (2) at timings corresponding to the boundaries of the time slots of a CMI coded signal (201). A low pass filter (3) is connected to the output (202) of the flip-flop 2. The phase of the output (204) of the voltage controlled oscillator (4) is controlled by the output (203) of the low pass filter.

*Fig. 3.*



EP 0 499 479 A3





European Patent  
Office

# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 92 30 1224

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
D,Y	EP-A-0 209 306 (NEC CORPORATION) * column 1, line 3 - column 1, line 5 * * column 2, line 8 - column 2, line 42 * * column 3, line 3 - column 3, line 26 * * column 4, line 16 - column 4, line 37; claim 5 *	1,2	H04L7/033 H03L7/085
Y	----- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 10, no. 32 (E-379)(2099) 7 February 1986 & JP-A-60 190 023 ( HITASHI SEISAKUSHO K.K. ) 27 September 1985 * abstract *	1,2	
Y	----- US-A-4 129 748 (SAYLOR) * column 3, line 3 - column 3, line 32 * * column 4, line 49 - column 4, line 58 * * column 14, line 64 - column 15, line 21 *	1,2	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			H04L H03L
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 08 OCTOBER 1992	Examiner CANALI F.
<p><b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>A : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 150 (12/92) (P0601)